

MARCH 13, 1976

BONN RATIFICATION WRAP-UP
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

IT WAS A LONG AND ROCKY ROAD, BUT WEST GERMANY ON FRIDAY (MARCH 12) RATIFIED ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND EMIGRATION AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND. VOA'S DON FRANKLIN HAS THIS REPORT FROM BONN. VOICE:

THE AGREEMENTS WERE RATIFIED AFTER WEEKS OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND WARSAW WHICH CONTINUED RIGHT UP UNTIL A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE UPPER HOUSE MADE ITS DECISION. THE OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WHO HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE UPPER HOUSE, THREATENED TO BLOCK THE AGREEMENTS IF POLAND DID NOT GIVE ASSURANCES THAT MORE THAN THE ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-FIVE-THOUSAND EMIGRATION VISAS FOR ETHNIC GERMANS CALLED FOR IN THE ACCORDS WOULD BE ISSUED.

THE VOTE FOR RATIFICATION WAS UNANIMOUS, AND IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE V O A, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTY PARTY CHAIRMAN GERHARD STOLTENBERG EXPLAINED WHAT PROMPTED HIS PARTY TO GO ALONG WITH THE AGREEMENTS AFTER ALL....

T A P E C U T O N E -- S T O L T E N B E R G:

"THE QUESTION FOR US WAS WHETHER THE DOOR WOULD BE KEPT OPEN FOR EMIGRATION ALSO AFTER THE 125,000 ETHNIC GERMANS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE. NOW, BECAUSE WE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MADE THIS A CONDITION FOR OUR APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENTS, WE HAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO ISSUE EMIGRATION PERMITS TO ETHNIC GERMANS IN ADDITION TO THE 124,000, WHO ARE ONLY ABOUT FORTY PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GERMANS WHO WOULD LIKE TO EMIGRATE. NOW WE HAVE COME MUCH CLOSER TO REAL RECONCILIATION WITH POLAND."

VOICE:

BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT FURTHER ASSURANCES FROM WARSAW THAT THE DOOR FOR EMIGRATION WOULD NOT BE CLOSED HAD NOT REALLY BEEN NECESSARY. BONN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DOCTOR ARMIN GRUENEWALD EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THIS WAY.....

T A P E C U T T W O -- G R U E N E W A L D:

"THE AGREEMENTS WERE PERFECTLY GOOD WHEN THEY WERE AGREED UPON IN AUGUST OF LAST YEAR IN HELSINKI BETWEEN MR GIEREK AND THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR. WE ARE HAPPY THAT THE POLISH SIDE MADE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE THINGS WHICH ALREADY HAD BEEN CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT ALSO CLEAR TO THE OPPOSITION."

VOICE:

ASKED WHETHER THE LONG TUG-OF-WAR TO GET THE AGREEMENTS RATIFIED WOULD AFFECT POLISH-GERMAN RELATIONS, DOCTOR GRUENEWALD REPLIED:

T A P E C U T T H R E E -- G R U E N E W A L D:

"IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO GIVE AN ANSWER FOR THE POLISH SIDE, BUT WE HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT DURING THE PROCESS OF FORMING OPINION IN THIS COUNTRY, THERE WERE SOME CONTRIBUTIONS BY WORDS AND BY THINKING FOR WHICH THE GERMANS HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE POLISH SIDE. WE CANNOT BE SURE THAT THERE WILL BE APOLOGIES, BUT WE HOPE SO SINCE NOW THE BASIS HAS BEEN FOUND TO HAVE A REALLY GOOD AGREEMENT. THE LEADERS OF ALL WEST GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES CALLED ON THEIR COUNTRYMEN TO HELP THOSE ETHNIC GERMANS WHO EMIGRATE FROM POLAND TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO THEIR NEW SURROUNDINGS, AND THEY STRESSED THAT ALL WHO WANT TO COME TO WEST GERMANY ARE WELCOME (HERE)."

JS